

We claim:

1. A laser-engravable recording material for producing a relief  
5 printing plate, comprising
  - a dimensionally stable support,
  - a laser-engravable recording layer comprising at least one polymeric binder and at least one absorber for laser radiation, and
  - 10 • optionally a cover sheet,wherein said polymeric binder is a silicone rubber and said absorber is a ferrous inorganic solid and/or carbon black.
- 15 2. A laser-engravable recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein said absorber is a metal iron pigment.
3. A laser-engravable recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein said absorber is an iron oxide selected from the  
20 group consisting of  $\text{FeOOH}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  or  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ .
4. A laser-engravable recording material as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said recording layer comprises further inorganic fillers.
- 25 5. A laser-engravable recording material as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, which comprises an additional top layer on the laser-engravable recording layer.
- 30 6. A laser-engravable recording material as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, which comprises an additional bottom layer between the support and the laser-engravable recording layer.
7. A process for producing a relief printing plate, which  
35 comprises optionally removing the cover sheet of a laser-engravable recording material as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 and engraving a relief into said recording material using a laser.
- 40 8. A process as claimed in claim 7, which is conducted in the presence of an oxygen-containing gas.
9. A relief printing plate comprising
  - a dimensionally stable support, and
  - 45 • a printing relief comprising at least one polymeric binder and at least one absorber for laser radiation,

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wherein said polymeric binder comprises a silicone rubber and said absorber comprises a ferrous inorganic solid and/or carbon black.

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